

Field Report - Summer 1987

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White Pelican	7/4	Hawkeye Wildlife Area	Johnson Co	1 bird	
Great Egret	6/21	Hawkeye Wildlife Area	Johnson Co	1 bird	early or late -
American Avocet	6/26	" " "	" "	1 spreading plumage	this bird is so distinctive that I want document. Beautiful plumm.
Laughing Gull	6/26	Hawkeye Wildlife Area	Johnson Co.	1 bird	see attached form

Dear Jim.

I have enclosed my mother's report of a Steller's Jay. I do not know what to think. It is certainly extremely unlikely but she is firmly convinced. I tried to persuade her that it was not a Steller's Jay and went thro all the other blue and/or crested birds that I could think of. None really fit her description and she, after considering these, ruled all out.

She had seen numerous Steller's on a Western trip less than a week before this sighting. Her knowledge of bird distribution in Iowa is slim and she did not immediately realize how rare this bird would be.

I have banded with Mom for years and she although she is not the greatest identifier of birds, ~~she~~ she tends to be conservative. ~~and she errs on the side~~ She is generally right on those she calls but has a higher percentage of 'I don't know's' than you or I.

I went to the site of the sighting at ~ 18 and 24 hrs after sighting + did not see the bird.

Rick